

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information signal transmission method of transmitting a primary information signal from a first electronic device to a second electronic device via a transmission line connected between an analog output terminal of said first electronic device and an analog input terminal of said second electronic device, said method being characterized in that:

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said second electronic device supplies, in the form of an electronic signal, device information associated with said second electronic device over said information signal transmission line; and

said first electronic device detects said device information supplied in the form of the electronic signal over said transmission line and controls outputting of said primary information signal in accordance with the detected device information.

2. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein when said second electronic device detects that an electronic device is brought into connection with said second electronic device via said analog input terminal, said second electronic device supplies said device information over said transmission line.

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3. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein when said first electronic device detects that an electronic device is brought into connection with said first electronic device via said analog output terminal, said first electronic device detects said device information supplied via said transmission line.

4. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein said first electronic device controls outputting of said primary information signal so that said primary information signal is output after detecting said device information supplied via said transmission line.

5. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein said second electronic device always supplies said device information over said transmission line.

6. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein said second electronic device supplies said device information over said transmission line intermittently at intervals of time.

7. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein:

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said first electronic device transmits via said transmission line a request for transmission of said device information; and

in response to said transmission request received via said transmission line, said second electronic device supplies said device information over said transmission line.

8. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein said second electronic device supplies said device information over said transmission line such that said device information has a lower level than that of said primary information signal.

9. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 8, wherein said second electronic device converts said device information into a signal having a low level by means of a spread spectrum conversion.

10. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein when said second electronic device is supplying said device information over said transmission line, said second electronic device does not process said primary information signal received via said transmission line.

11. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein said second electronic device is a recording device for recording said primary information signal on a recording medium which, when it has come into a recording mode in which said primary information signal is to be recorded on said recording medium, supplies, over said transmission line, operation status information indicating that said recording device is in said recording mode; and  
said first electronic device detects said operation status information received via said transmission line and controls outputting of said primary information signal in accordance with also a status indicated by said detected operation status information.

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12. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 11, wherein when said operation status information received via said transmission line indicates that said second electronic device is in the recording mode and when copy management information attached to said primary information signal indicates that copying is prohibited, said first electronic device does not output said primary information signal.

13. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 11, wherein when said operation status information

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received via said transmission line indicates that said second electronic device is in the recording mode and when copy management information attached to said primary information signal indicates that only a first-generation copy is permitted, said first electronic device rewrites said copy management information so as to indicate that copying is prohibited and outputs said primary information signal together with said rewritten copy management information attached thereto.

14. An information signal transmission method according to Claim 1, wherein:

a digital serial output terminal is used instead of said analog output terminal and a digital serial input terminal is used instead of said analog input terminal; and said first electronic device detects said device information supplied in the form of the electronic signal over said transmission line and controls the output of said primary digital data in accordance with the detected device information.

15. An information signal transmission system for transmitting a primary information signal from a first electronic device to a second electronic device via a transmission line connected between an analog output

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terminal of said first electronic device and an analog input terminal of said second electronic device, said system being characterized in that:

    said second electronic device includes device information transmitting means for supplying, in the form of an electronic signal, device information associated with said second electronic device over said information signal transmission line; and

    said first electronic device includes:

        device information detecting means for detecting said device information supplied in the form of the electronic signal over said transmission line; and

        control means for controlling the output of said primary information signal in accordance with the device information detected by said device information detecting means.

16. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein:

    said second electronic device includes connection detecting means for detecting whether an electronic device is brought into connection with said analog input terminal; and

    when said connection detecting means detects that an electronic device is brought into connection with said

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analog input terminal, said device information transmitting means of said second electronic device supplies said device information over said transmission line.

17. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein:

    said first electronic device includes connection detecting means for detecting whether an electronic device is brought into connection with said analog output terminal; and

    when said connection detecting means detects that an electronic device is brought into connection with said analog output terminal, said device information detecting means of said first electronic device detects said device information.

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18. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein said control means of the first electronic device controls outputting of said primary information signal so that said primary information signal is output after detecting said device information supplied via said transmission line.

19. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein said device information transmitting

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means of said second electronic device always supplies said device information over said transmission line.

20. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein said device information transmitting means of said second electronic device supplies said device information over said transmission line intermittently at intervals of time.

21. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein:

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said first electronic device includes request transmitting means for supplying over said transmission line a request for transmission of said device information;

said first electronic device includes request detecting means for detecting said transmission request transmitted via said transmission line; and

when said request detecting means detects said transmission request, said device information transmitting means of said second electronic device supplies said device information over said transmission line.

22. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein said device information transmitting means of said second electronic device supplies said device

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information over said transmission line such that said device information has a lower level than that of said primary information signal.

23. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 22, wherein said device information transmitting means of said second electronic device converts said device information into a signal having a low level by means of a spread spectrum conversion.

24. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein:

    said second electronic device includes information signal processing means for processing said primary information signal supplied via said transmission line; and when said device information transmitting means of said second electronic device is supplying said device information over said transmission line, said information signal processing means does not process said primary information signal supplied via said transmission line.

25. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein:

    said second electronic device is a recording device for recording said primary information signal on a recording

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medium, said recording device including operation status information transmitting means for transmitting operation status information indicating the status of said recording device;

said first electronic device includes operation status detecting means for detecting said operation status information supplied via said transmission line; and

said control means of said first electronic device  
controls outputting of said primary information signal in  
accordance with also a status indicated by said operation  
status information detected by said operation status  
indicating means.

26. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 25, wherein when said operation status detecting means detects said operation status information indicating a transition into the recording mode and when copy management information attached to said primary information signal indicates that copying is prohibited, said control means of said first electronic device controls outputting of said primary information signal such that said primary information signal is not output.

27. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 25, wherein when said operation status detecting

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means detects said operation status information indicating a transition into the recording mode and when copy management information attached to said primary information signal indicates that copying is permitted only for a first generation, said control means of said first electronic device rewrites said copy management information so as to indicate that copying is prohibited and outputs said primary information signal together with said rewritten copy management information attached thereto.

28. An information signal transmission system according to Claim 15, wherein a digital serial output terminal is used instead of said analog output terminal and a digital serial input terminal is used instead of said analog input terminal.

29. An information signal transmitting apparatus for transmitting a primary information signal, said information signal transmitting apparatus serving as a first electronic device whose analog output terminal is connected to an analog input terminal of a second electronic device via a transmission line so that said primary information signal is transmitted from said first electronic device to said second electronic device, said information signal transmitting apparatus comprising:

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device information detecting means for detecting device information associated with said second electronic device, said device information being supplied in the form of an electronic signal from said second electronic device via the transmission line for transmitting said information signal; and

control means for controlling the output of said primary information signal in accordance with the device information detected by said device information detecting means.

30. An information signal transmitting apparatus according to Claim 29, further comprising connection detecting means for detecting whether an electronic device is brought into connection with said analog output terminal, wherein when said connection detecting means detects that an electronic device is brought into connection with said analog output terminal, said device information detecting means detects said device information.

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31. An information signal transmitting apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein said control means controls outputting of said primary information signal so that said primary information signal is output after said device information detecting means has detected said device

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information.

32. An information signal transmitting apparatus according to Claim 29, further comprising request transmitting means for supplying a request for transmission of said device information, over said transmission line.

33. An information signal transmitting apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein said device information detecting means detects said device information transmitted via said transmission line for transmitting said primary information signal, said device information being transmitted after being converted to a signal having a lower level than that of said primary information signal.

34. An information signal transmitting apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein said device information detecting means receives a spread spectrum signal produced by converting said device information into a low-level signal by means of a spread spectrum conversion, and said device information detecting means detects said device information by performing an inverse spread spectrum conversion upon the received spread spectrum signal.

35. An information signal transmitting apparatus

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according to Claim 29, further comprising operation status detecting means for detecting operation status information supplied in the form of an electronic signal from said second electronic device via said transmission line, said operation status information indicating the operation status of said second electronic device, and wherein said control means controls outputting of said primary information signal in accordance with the operation status information detected by said operation status detecting means and also in accordance with the device information detected by said device information detecting means.

36. An information signal transmitting apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein when said operation status detecting means detects said operation status information indicating a transition into the recording mode and when copy management information attached to said primary information signal indicates that copying is prohibited, said control means controls outputting of said primary information signal such that said primary information signal is not output.

37. An information signal transmitting apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein when said operation status detecting means detects said operation status information

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indicating a transition into the recording mode and when copy management information attached to said primary information signal indicates that copying is permitted only for a first generation, said control means rewrites said copy management information so as to indicate that copying is prohibited and outputs said primary information signal together with said rewritten copy management information attached thereto.

38. An information signal transmitting apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein a digital serial output terminal is used instead of said analog output terminal and said information signal transmitting apparatus is connected to an electronic device having a digital serial input terminal whereby said information signal transmitting apparatus outputs primary digital data via said transmission line.

39. A method for a first electronic device to transmit a primary information signal to a second electronic device via a transmission line connecting an analog output terminal of said first electronic device to an analog output terminal of said second electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting device information associated with said

second electronic device, said device information being supplied from said second electronic device via the transmission line for transmitting the information signal; and

controlling the output of said primary information signal in accordance with the detected device information.

40. An information signal receiving apparatus for receiving a primary information signal, said information signal receiving apparatus serving as a second electronic device whose analog input terminal is connected to an analog output terminal of a first electronic device via a transmission line so that said primary information signal is transmitted from said first electronic device to said second electronic device, said information signal receiving apparatus comprising:

device information transmitting means for supplying, in the form of an electronic signal, device information associated with said second electronic device over said information signal transmission line.

41. An information signal receiving apparatus according to Claim 40, further comprising connection detecting means for detecting whether an electronic device is brought into connection with said analog input terminal, wherein when

said connection detecting means detects that an electronic device is brought into connection with said analog input terminal, said device information transmitting means supplies said device information over said transmission line.

42. An information signal receiving apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said device information transmitting means always supplies said device information over said transmission line.

43. An information signal receiving apparatus according to Claim 40, said device information transmitting means supplies said device information over said transmission line intermittently at intervals of time.

44. An information signal receiving apparatus according to Claim 40, further comprising request detecting means for detecting said transmission request transmitted from said first electronic device via said transmission line, wherein when said request detecting means detects said transmission request, said device information transmitting means supplies said device information over said transmission line.

45. An information signal receiving apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said device information transmitting

means supplies said device information over said transmission line such that said device information has a lower level than that of said primary information signal.

46. An information signal receiving apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein said device information transmitting means converts said device information into a signal having a low level by means of a spread spectrum conversion.

47. An information signal receiving apparatus according to Claim 40, further comprising process controlling means for controlling a process performed upon said primary information signal supplied via said analog input terminal, wherein said process controlling means controls the process such that when said device information transmitting means is supplying said device information over said transmission line, said primary information signal is not subjected to the process.

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48. An information signal receiving apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said information signal receiving apparatus is a recording device for recording said primary information signal on a recording medium, said recording device including operation status information transmitting means for transmitting operation status information

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indicating the status of said recording device;

49. An information signal receiving apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein a digital serial input terminal is used instead of said analog input terminal and said information signal receiving apparatus is connected to an electronic device having a digital serial output terminal whereby said information signal receiving apparatus receives primary digital data via said transmission line.

50. A method for a second electronic device to receive a primary information signal from a first electronic device via a transmission line connecting an analog output terminal of said first electronic device to an analog output terminal of said second electronic device, said method comprising the step of:

transmitting device information associated with said second electronic device, in the form of an electric signal, over the transmission line for transmitting said information signal.